assisting research projects and interventions which validate efficacy claims relating to Indian systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Life style related diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity are some of the priority areas identified under the revised scheme.

Disaster management plan to check outbreak of certain diseases

43. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any disaster management plan has been formulated to meet the immediate challenge of possible outbreak of diseases like small pox, brain fever etc. in the context of the military operations, arms build up and tension in the sub-continent following the terrorist attack on USA on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether and to what extent and effective speed would it be possible to reach and nurse the different far-flung areas of the country; and

(d) the details of the regional or State level plans drawn up, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized by the Department of Health which was participated by Secretaries of Home and Health from various States and Union Territories. They have taken stock of the preparedness to face any situation including availability of drugs and all the states have been asked to strengthen their public health system to handle the situation effectively. In this context a detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories and Central Govt. Hospitals in order to take precautionary steps such as earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency cotingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible, setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action and sensitize them on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(c) and (d) Government has initiated the following actions:

(i) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(ii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different states and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to the followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iii) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country;

(iv) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home & Health. Director of Health Services from various States/ Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation as per their disaster management plan.

(v) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vi) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops packages are being received for tests.

Kidney transplantation in the Capital

44. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that kidney transplantation market thrives in the Capital as reported in the Times of India, dated the 10th September, 2001; and

(b) the number of kidney transplants done in India during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. However, two cases of people selling their kidneys pertaining to Delhi have come to the notice during last one year and appropriate action is being taken by the Government of NCT Delhi.